



Special session update from Olympia

May 30, 2012

Washington third least corruptible state

Bad news sells, the saying goes, and that's why you'll always hear more about what goes wrong in society than what goes right. So here's some good news to help balance the scales.

Our state ranks third among all states for having put in place the best laws, rules, and practices regarding public access to information, political financing and ethics enforcement, according to a study by the Center for Public Integrity. Only New Jersey and Connecticut scored higher.

Our state received an overall grade of "B-", largely on the strength of our evenhanded redistricting process, lobbyist disclosure requirements and internal auditing. Though the report is critical of every state and no state received an "A," our state was held up as a model for other states.

Other elements that contribute to open and transparent government here include: TVW; the state Public Disclosure Commission; a bipartisan, open redistricting process; executive, legislative, and judicial ethics boards; and the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials.

You can read more about Washington's rankings here and here.

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Washington continues to add jobs

The state added about 4,200 jobs last month, dropping the unemployment rate to 8.2 percent, according to the

Employment Security Department. It's the lowest unemployment rate in more than three years.

The loss of government jobs continues to be a drag on net improvement in the unemployment rate. Government led industries that shed jobs last month, with 1,400 positions lost. Other industries are hiring, however, including construction, which added 1,900 jobs and transportation, warehousing and utilities, which was up 1,500.

The new rate of 8.2 percent unemployment is actually the same initial rate reported for January, but the state updated numbers for January showing an unemployment rate of 8.4 percent, down from December's revised rate of 8.6 percent.

Watch video coverage of 49th district town hall meeting from March 10

If you weren't able to attend the 49th legislative district town hall meeting on March 10, but are interested in hearing the discussion, you can access CVTV's coverage on their website. Find that video [here](#).

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